L'Estrange's

CASE

In a CIVIL

DIALOGUE

Betwixt

ZEKIEL

AND

EPHRAIM.

LONDON,

Printed for *H. Brome* at the Signe of the *Gun* in S. *Pauls* Church-yard. 1680.

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L'Eſtrange *at a Window above.*

Zekiel. WHy I tell thee, *Ephraim*, I heard it with my own Ears, and it was a Man in *Black* too, that ſaid it.

Eph. In *Black*, do ye ſay? 'Twas no *Divine* I hope.

Zek. No, no; He was too *Fierce*, and *Fiery*, for a *Divine*: By his laying about him ſo, and his *Bug-Words*, a Man would rather have taken him for a *Conjurer* But yet he ſeems to be a very *Good man*, in *His Way*.

Eph. There's a *Doctor* of *Phyſick* or two, that I know, that are very *Honeſt*, *Zealous Men*: Might it not be One of Them?

Zek. No, no; This Man does not look like a *Doctor* of *any thing*: I ſhould rather take him for ſome body toward the *Law*.

Eph. Pre'thee deſcribe him a little. Has he not a *Big*, *deep Voyce*?

Zek. Yes; and a hoarſe kind of wheaſing with it, like the *Ciphring* of an *Organ-Pipe* that has got a *Flaw*.

Eph. And thou find'ſt him a Man of parts too; doſt not?

Zek. Oh: A Devilliſh Fellow. Well *Ephraim*: 'Tis a ſtrange thing, how one may be deceived in a bodies *Out-ſide*. I ſhould not have thought by the ſemblance of This man, that he could have ſaid *Bo* to a *Gooſe*.

Eph. We are Both upon the ſame Perſon *Zekiel*, only he ſpoke the *ſame things*, in the *Morning* at the *Amſterdam Coffee-Houſe*, and in the *After-noon* at *Richards*.

Zek. He has an odd kind of *Lift* methinks with his *Upper-Lip*, like the *Snuffling* of a *Stone-horſe* at a *Mare*.

Eph. I have obſerv'd ſomething of a Convulſion in that Part. But what-like *Face* had he, I Pre'thee?

Zek. Did'ſt thou ever take notice of a *Vizor*, with a kind of *Liver-colour Verniſh* yonder, at a *Glaſſe-Shop* by *Exeter Change*? The *Mouth*, (if you mark it) is cut a little higher then Ordinary.

Eph. Now thou mind'ſt me of it, 'Tis the very Picture of this Worthy Gentleman. The *Noſe* on't I remember, looks as if it had been drawn on with a *Shooing-Horn*.

Zek. But then take the *Gentleneſſe* of his *Manners*, the *Graces* of his *Mind*; the *Sweetneſſe* of his *Motions*, and *Addreſſe*: Really take him altogether, and the *Man* is a *Man*, every Inch of him.

Eph. 'Tis very true *Zekiel*: for the Man is *Tall*, and *Slender*; and every thing that he *ſays*, or *does*, comes from him with ſo *Pretty* an *Obliging Ayre*. But let us come now to the Point: What did he ſay?

Zek.

Zek. He ſaid flat and Plain, that *Crack-fart* was a *Conſpirator*; up to the Ears in Young *Tongs Sham-Plot*; and that a *Pillory* was too good for him.

Eph. Why This is no more then the Common Talk of all the *Coffee-Houſes* about the Town.

Zek. And let me tell thee as a Secret, *Ephraim*, the *ſame People* carry'd the *ſame Humour* about the *Town*, as well as the *ſame Words*. There's a *ſhort*, *Trub*, *fat*, *Fellow*, in a *white Perrywig*, (his Father, as I take it, was a *Commitee man*.) There happen'd one of *L'Eſtrange* his Pamphlets to ly in his way, and you might ſee his Indignation come up his Gullet, as plainly, as if a *Snake* were fetching up a *Toad* again. Thou canſt not think how I dote upon this Honeſt man, for his Affection to our Intereſt.

Eph. There's another, that they call the *Coffee Draper*: upon my credit, he lays it on to ſome Tune too. I heard him ſpeak *bloody words* t'other day; and he was as well *Seconded* by one that is lately come over from the *Profeſſion* of an *Hypocrite* to the *Practiſe* of it, who is an excellent Man too in his Generation.

Zek. Prethee *Ephraim* let's have no more *Riddles*. Thou mean'ſt the *Hypocrite*, I ſuppoſe, according to the *Letter*.

Eph. But what do ye think then of the *Poetical Joyner*? He that Rhim'd ſo plaguily upon the *Judges* and the *Juries*, about *Gaſcoyn*, and *Wakeman*?

Zek. Ay, now you ſpeak of a Man indeed: If you had but heard him, how he whipp'd up two or

Three

three Blades t'other day, of the *Arbitrary way*, upon the War of *Forty One*, you'd have ſaid he had been a *Teazer, indeed.* He told them to their very Noſes, that the Parliament-men of thoſe days were the braveſt *Patriots* that ever *England* bred; that they fought for the *Liberty* of the *Subject*; and in one word exalted them to the skyes.

Eph. Come, come; Let it ſuffice, that Dr. *Oates* was There himſelf, and a great many Worthy Perſons beſides; And no Room for any other Diſcourſe then *L'Eſtrange* and *Tong*, *Celiers* and *L'Eſtrange.*

Zek. Why Really to give him his Due, the *Doctor* ſeem'd to be much for *Moderation*: One was downright for the *Gallows*: Another would have brought it down to *Pebbles*, and *Rotten Eggs*; But the Doctor himſelf, being more inclin'd to *Mercy*, was willing to content himſelf with a *Touch* at the *Carts Arſe.*

Eph. Prethee *Zekiel* let us keep cloſe to the Subject, now we are upon it: for ſome way or other, This Varlet muſt be Confounded.

Zek. Nay, That's a thing abſolutely Reſolved, *Ephraim*; and there are more ways to the Wood then One. Let us try Firſt, how far we can carry it upon the Reputation of *Tongs Plot.*

Eph. Very Good; and if That will not reach him, we muſt ſet our Wits to work ſome other way.

Zek. Why you ſee how all the *Coffee-houſes* take fire at it already.

Eph.

Eph. Ay; and all the *News-Mongers* too; and conſequently the whole *Kingdome*.

Zek. And then it goes down with the People, without ſo much as *Gulping*. Nay; It has Stagger'd, I know not how many, of his *Beſt Friends*. How many *Fools*, and *Coxcombs* have I heard him call'd, even by *his own Party*; ſince we put *This Hare afoot*. Not ſo few as a Hundred people came to *Harry Brooms* in One day, to ſee what was become of him, and in what Goal to find him.

Eph. Nay (as we order'd the matter) his *Charge*, *Examination*, and *Committment*, were all over the Nation, before either the *Counſell*, or *Himſelf*, had heard *one Syllable* of the *Story*.

Zek. It muſt not be deny'd, but that the *Deſign* was well *layd*; and *carry'd on* too, with as much *Skill*, and *Induſtry*, as was poſſible.

Eph. If you ſpeak of the *Original deſign*; the *Snare* for *L'Eſtrange* was as well contriv'd as Heart could wiſh it. For nothing could be more Plauſible, then the Means that *Tong* uſed by a *Second hand*, for the drawing of him into the *Toyle*. You know what I mean.

Zek. Yes yes; *Tong* propounded that *L'Eſtrange* might be call'd in, to his Aſſiſtance, as a fit perſon to direct him in This Affayr. But This poynt *Ephraim* was not followed ſo cloſe as it might have been. And then there was too much Noiſe made on't beforehand. Now there's no thought of compaſſing ſuch a buſineſs as This, when it has once taken *Vent*.

Eph.

Eph. To say the Truth, *Zekiel*, we were a little out in our Measures, at Both Ends. *First*, we let it run too long, without any sort of *Personal Application* to *L'Estrange*. *Secondly*, we struck too soon at *Last*. For who knows, but that with *Art*, and a little longer *Patience* he might have been prevayl'd upon, in the End, to have *Pouch'd* the *Bayt*?

Zek. 'Tis but so much *Time* and *Breath* cast away, to stand talking of matters that are gone and Past: But since *Tongs Committment*, and the bringing of things to a *Forc'd Put*; I have set as hard upon *L'Estrange's Skirts*, as another.

Eph. And if you go to *That* (*Zekiel*) there are *Others* that have done their *Parts* (I believe) too, as well as *You*: And Pray'e (if a body may ask you) what mighty businesses have *You* to boast of, in This Affair, more then your *Fellows*?

Zek. Nay since you provoke me *Ephraim*. I am not Affraid to dispute Services with you, provided that it breed no *Ill bloud* betwixt us; For *Competitions* are many times the Ruine, even of the most *Generous Undertakings*.

Eph. These are not so properly *Competitious*, *Zekiel*, as *Virtuous Emulations*, when *Brethren* strive only to Exceed one another in *Goodnesse*. Wherefore I Prethee let us vye the good Offices we have render'd the *Publick*, in This Instance, with that *Calmnesse*, and *Moderation* that may become persons of *Our Character*, and *Profession*.

Zek.

Zek. Thou haſt ſpoken with the Lips of an *Angell*, *Ephraim*. And beſide the *Duty* of our *Agreement*, if there were nothing in it but *Humane Policy*, it would concern us to *bear up* in *Unity*, againſt the *Common Enemy*, and leave the Unhappy *Differences* that we find among *our ſelves*, to be *Adjuſted* at *Leiſure*. But now to your *Friendly Challenge*, *Ephraim*. See Honeſt *John Gays* News-Letter of *Octob.* 2. 1680. At the *Flying Horſe* in *Fleetſtreet*, and you will find This Paſſage following.

A Perſon (ſays he) *having viſited Mr.* Tonge *in* Newgate, *Mr.* Tonge *deliver'd him a Paper, Containing a Diſcovery of the whole Contrivance againſt Dr.* Oates; *in which is mentioned that Mr.* L'Eſtrange *is concerned in it; and that upon Notice of its being likely to be Diſcover'd, Mr.* L'Eſtrange *ſent a Letter to Mr.* Tonge, *to Remove all the Papers out of his Lodgings, to Mr.* Ely's. *&c.*

Now if This was not a *Conſiderable Service*, the ſending of *This Perſon* to *Newgate*; and the *Publiſhing* of *This Report*, which was the *Foundation* of All the *Following Aſperſions* upon *L'Eſtrange*: I am no *Maſter* of my *Trade*.

Eph. Your *Will* was *Good* no doubt on't, *Zekiel*; And ſo was your *Deſign*: you made uſe of *Proper Inſtruments* too, and gave *Birth* to a very *Serviceable Rumour*: But what needed you have given that *Blind Intimation* of a *Quidam*: a certain *Nameleſs Perſon* that firſt broch'd the *Story*? It makes it look like a *Practice*; whereas one *bold Touch* to have made it a *diſcovery* upon an *Examination* from *Above*, would have *hit the Bird in the Eye*. And then *L'Eſtranges Letter* to *Tong*, and the *Removal* of his *Papers* to *Mr. Elys*, (to be plain

with ye *Zekiel*) was e'en a *Silly Invention*: for any man might foreſee, that once in *Eight and Forty Hours*, the *Abuſe* would be *detected*; (as effectually it was.) And if the people had not been very kind to us, the *Manifeſt Falſity* of Thoſe *Particulars*, might have *hazzarded* the *Credit* of all the *Reſt*.

Zek. This was *Gays* fault, and not *Mine*: for That Piece was intended only for a *Country Intelligence*, and he like a *Coxcomb*, goes and diſperſes it here in the *Town*.

But what do ye think now of *My device*, that was Clapt in upon the Back of *Prance* his *Narative*, by way of *Poſt-ſcript*? You have ſeen't I'm ſure; 'Twas Printed for *Langly Curtis* upon *Lud-Gate Hill*: and came out *October*. 1*ſt*. The man you muſt know, is as True as *Steel*, where he takes; and a *pretty Fellow enough*, if he would but leave a fooliſh Trick he has taken up, of winding up his *Noſe*, and ſhewing his *Teeth* at every turn, like a *Whelp* that has got a *Bee* in's Ear. *Your Intelligence* I can aſſure ye, had been run to *dirt*; if *This* Paper had not Stept in, to *Relieve* ye.

Mrs. Cellier, (ſays he) *mentioning the ſaid Mr.* Leſtrange *very familiarly*; *and pretending then to ſend her Imps*, Grange, *and* Sing *up and down to him*; *tho' for all her vain boaſting, it cannot* (*I think*) *be imagin'd, that ſo worthy a Gentleman and ſo much a Proteſtant as he has ſhown himſelf by his late Learned Pamphlets*; *and one that is*, (*as I am told*) *a Juſtice of the Peace, would have any Correſpondence with ſuch a notorious* Popiſh Baggage, *&c.*

Here's

Here's a Spark now that would paſſe the *Ordeal*, and never ſay, *God ſave the King for't*. For when he has fairly hinted a *familiarity* betwixt *L'Eſtrange* and *Celiers*, and a *Correſpondence* entertain'd betwixt them, even to the *naming* of the very *Mercuries* that convey'd the *Intelligence*; you will finde in the *Context*, that it is all delivered only as a *Credible Hearſay*; and to tell you as a Friend, the Small Officer you wot of, had a great hand in the Advice; And then ſo ſoon as ever he had *Beſpatter'd* him with *Calumnies*, hardly ever to be *repaired*, do but ſee how delicately the Rogue makes it *worſe and worſe* by pretending to Lick him *Clean* again.

Eph. But how comes *Curtis* to have ſuch an Intereſt thereabouts?

Zek. There's a Myſtery in That, my Friend *Ephraim*. *Firſt*, upon an Order for a Proſecution at Law, there is a way of either falling ſhort in the *Evidence*, and ſo bringing the matter *off That way*; or elſe of *ſuppreſſing* thoſe Articles that would have done the buſineſs, or in ſome caſes not bringing the queſtion *on* at *all*. *Secondly*, There is one that does not ſtick publickly to declare, that he will not meddle with hindring any Libells againſt *L'Eſtrange*: and ſo we have as good as a *Protection* in that *Aſſurance*. And then (under the Roſe) There may be now and then certain *Feelings* in the Cauſe, and *Connivings*, in which Caſe it will be dangerous to *diſoblige* us, for fear of telling *Tales*.

Eph. Well, but you are gone from your Text. Where's the Mighty Service, I beſeech ye, that you have done your Party by This *Pamphlet*?

Zek. Or rather, Where are your *Eyes*, *Ephraim*, that cannot *diſcern* it, without *poynting* to't? did not you find the *Operation* of *This Paper*, Immediately upon the *Publiſhing* it? and that whereas *L'Eſtrange* was only mention'd before, as a ſetter on of *Tong* againſt the *Two Doctors* without any *other Confederate*; It came now to the *Cry* of the Town, that *Celiers* and *L'Eſtrange* went on hand in hand with the *Conſpiracy*: and in ſuch a manner too, that *L'Eſtrange* had hardly any way left him to purge himſelf, but the Teſtimony of *Celliers*, who was not to be believ'd. There's nothing ſticks cloſer to *L'Eſtrange*, then *this Intimation*: and yet it has ſtarted another *Bugg* too, which is that he is a *Papiſt*, as well as a *Plotter*; and That perſwaſion I promiſe you goes a great way. Nay Ile tell ye a word more too, but in *Confidence.* I heard a Gentleman undertake the other night to prove him one; and This is a man that ſpeaks him as fair to his Face to, as any man Living, which carrys the greater Credit.

Eph. But do you believe, *Zekiel*, that *L'Eſtrange* holds any *Correſpondence* with *Celliers*, or *not?*

Zek I do not believe that ever he exchang'd any meſſage with her, or ever ſo much as ſaw the Eyes of her in his whole Life. This is a thing I would not ſay to every Body, but I know to whom I ſpeak it.

Eph. You muſt know *Zekiel* that I did not only ſtart the firſt *General Report* of *L'Eſtranges* being in *Tongs Plot*, but I fixed the *Particular Article*; and layd it; *for Tampering with* Tong, *to* Renounce *the* Retractation *he made to his Vnkle, of his* former Enformation.

Zek.

Zek. That might paſſe well enough to ſerve a *preſent Turn*, but at the long Run, you could never expect that it would hold water, for at the time of *Tongs Renouncing* That *Retractation*, *L'Eſtrange* had not as yet ever ſeen the face of *Tong*. To deale frankly with ye, I do not approve the laying of ſo much ſtreſſe neither, upon *Tongs Teſtimony*. *Firſt*, he advances an *Enformation*; and at the ſame time, gives *us* a *Counterpart* of it, which according to *our Principles* was *fairly done*. *Secondly*, he *Retracts* That *Information*; and *Thirdly*, denys, upon his *Salvation* that ever he *retracted* it, and Swears it to have been his own Spontaneous Act, with *Three Wittneſſes* to Aſſert That *Diſclamer*. Now This is ſo *Notorious* a *forfeiture* of his *Credit*, that I ſhould be very loth to Venture the *Pinch* of the *Queſtion* upon his *Evidence*. So that I am ſtill blowing up the Clamour of *L'Eſtrange* and *Celiers* and the Jelouſy of *L'Eſtranges* being a *Papiſt*. And I'le tell ye what, beſide; I have puſh'd it forward, that the Duke of *York* ſent *Tong* a *Hundred Guinnyes* by *L'Eſtrange*, for an Encouragement. And This works in the peoples heads, like *Bottle Ale*.

Eph. That it does upon my word *Zekiel*: for I was rounded in the ear but yeſterday, that *Prance* had *Ten Wittneſſes* in Readineſs, to prove that *L'Eſtrange* had been *Forty times* at *Maſs* here: & Solemnly Worſhipping according to the Profeſſion of the *Romiſh Communion*. And I was told by another at the ſame time, that *L'Eſtrange* was run quite away, and a Sum of money offer'd to any man that ſhould bring him back again.

Zek. This Play of Faſt and Looſe may do well enough, ſo long as the Truth is kept out of ſight: But you ſee, ſince *L'Eſtrange*'s appearing at the Councell, that the buſineſſe of *Tonge* is in a manner blown over, and

and that we are put to our ſhifts for Other Pretenſes, to uphold the Controverſy. So that if it were not for *My ſtory* of *Celliers*, and the Common Theme of *Popery*, and *Popiſhly-Affected*, I do not know but we might e'en ſhut up our ſhops, and let fall the Queſtion.

Eph. I know very well how matters paſs'd upon *L'Eſtrange*'s Examination; and all things conſider'd, I am of Opinion that *John Gay* has done *his part* again, to help us out at a dead Lift, in his paper of Intelligence. *Octo.* 7.

Yeſterday (*ſays he*) Mrs. *Cellier*, Mr. *L'Eſtrange*, Mr. *Choqueux*, Captain *Ely*, Mr. *Tonge*, his *Father*, and Dr. *Oates*, had a Hearing before the Councill; where ſeveral material things were diſcovered; and many Words paſt betwixt Dr. *Oates*, and Mr. *L'Eſtrange*,; The Council upon Dr. *Oates* deſiring *L'Eſtrange* might be committed, Order'd Dr. *Oates* to bring a *Bill* againſt him, and if it was found, he ſhould be Secur'd. And *L'Eſtrange* own'd that Mr. *Tonge* had been with him, but did not communicate any of his Plot to him. The further Hearing of *Him* and Mrs *Cellier* is adjourn'd till *Friday*.

Zek. What doſt thou mean *Ephraim*, to encourage ſuch a *Flam* as This? There are twice as many known Falſhoods in it as there are Lines: And they are ſo Palpable too, that there is hardly any man of buſineſs, but is able to Contradict them: Nor is there one Syllable in it to the Purpoſe, but where *L'Eſtrange* and *Cellier* are coupled together. He ſays nothing at all here of *L'Eſtrange*'s being ſnapt up at the Councell for his *Sawcyneſſe*, and the Moan he made to their Lordſhips for Dr. *Oates's* making ſo bold with one of the *Kings Juſtices*; and the Drs. telling him that he would *prove* him a *Rogue*, by the Beſt in the Land; and of the *Cauſe* being only *put off*, in order to the Drs. bringing of further Evidence. Now ſince Mr. *Gay* was ſo bent upon it, to ſtrain a point of *Candour*, and *Integrity*; methinks he ſhould have had the Brains to have made a better Choice of the *Lyes* he intended to *publiſh*; eſpecially when the *One* was every jot as *True*, and as *Cheap* as the *Other*.

Eph. Pray'e tell me what Exception you have, now, to the Paper of honeſt Mr. *Hill*? (that of a *Strong-Water-man* is now become an *Intelligencer*.) It bears *Date*, *Octo.* 7.

Yeſterday (*ſays he*) Mr. *Juſtice Bridgman* and Dr. *Oates* appear'd at the *Councell-board*, where he deliver'd the Confeſſion of young *Tonge*, which he made in *Newgate*, whereby he accuſed Mr. L'*Eſtrange*, and one *Choqueux* to be *Conſpirators* with him in the Plot, againſt his *Father*, and Dr. *Oates*. Very high Words paſs'd between Dr. *Oates*, and Mr. L'*Eſtrange*; tha

the Latter telling the Councell that Dr. *Oates* took the Liberty to call him a Thouſand times *Rogue*, and *Raſcall*; which the Dr. owned, ſaying *he would prove him to be Both*, and deſir'd he might be Secur'd: Whereupon the Councell Order'd the Dr. to prefer a *Bill* againſt him; and if it were found, promiſed that he ſhould either be *Secur'd*, or give ſufficient *Bayle*. Upon Examination, *L'Eſtrange* owned that *Young Tonge* had been with him; and at the ſame time told him he had ſomething to diſcover but he knew not what it was.

Zek. This piece of Intelligence, *Ephraim*, is like *Chip in Porridge*, it does neither good, not hurt; only it keeps the Wheel a going. And yet the leaviug out of *Cellier* (let me tell ye) is the want of a *Principal Verb*. It was not well, to put in the Doctors calling *L'Eſtrange*, *Rogue*, and *Raſcall*; unleſſe it had been accompany'd with ſome *Intolerable Provocation*; for fear it might be look upon as an Irreverence toward the Board. The Dr. they ſay, made often mention of the Parliament; which the *News-Letters* do well not to take notice of, upon matter of *Diſcretion* as well as *Reſpect*. Upon the whole matter, I obſerve This *Decorum* in all theſe Papers, that in the Main they have the Wit to hold moſtly in a Tale. The moſt *Poſitive* and *Conciſe* of the whole Tribe is little *Hancock*. *October. 7th.*

The

The Papers of *young Tong's Sham-Plot* being ſeiz'd, Mr. L'*Eſtrange*, and Mrs. *Cellier* were Summon'd; but they deny'd they knew any thing of it; but Mrs. *Cellier* would not ſtand to it, by reaſon of the many Bruiſes ſhe received on the *Pillory*: But next *Wedneſday*, Mr. *Tonge* will be brought to Confront them, face to face.

Eph. Theſe *Papers* of *Young Tongs*, I muſt confeſs I never heard of. But I am fully Convinc'd of the benefit of Coupling *L'Eſtrange* with *Celliers*.

L'Eſtrange. Pray'e my Maſters will you give *me* Leave now to put in a word, in my own Caſe: And you ſhall have the Naked Truth of it, as if I were upon my Laſt Confeſſion.

Eph. 'Tis an Old ſaying, that *Liſteners ſeldome hear well of themſelves*; but it is as True again, in another Caſe, that *he that makes a Conſcience of his ways, needs never fear being ſurpriz'd.*

L'E. With what face can you pretend to appeal to the integrity of your own Souls; when you are not more convinc'd of the difference betwixt *Truth* and *Falſhood*, then you are *Conſcious* to your ſelves, of a *Malitious Conſpiracy* againſt an *Innocent Perſon*, in *This* Practice? For your *Calumnies* are all Supported by *Confederacy*, and *Inconſiſtent* with *Themſelves*. The Pretended *Foundation* of your Outrage againſt me, is, for *Abetting a Subornation againſt the Kings Witneſſes*: And when you finde that upon *That Ground*

you cannot ſuſtain your *Charge*; I am to be made a *Papiſt*. When *That Calumny* fails you too, my *Writings* are to be pickt, and ſifted; and an *Inquiſition* to paſſe upon my *Papers*. So that your buſineſs is not to puniſh any *Open Faults* in me but to hunt for *ſecret ones*, and to revenge your ſelves upon my *Perſon*, becauſe I have layd my *Offences* out of your *Sight*.

Zek. You ſhould do better to value your ſelf upon the ſimplicity of your manners, then upon a flouriſh of Words and Phraſes: And ſince yon are ſo forward to offer your ſelf to a Defence; Pray'e will you ſpeak to ſuch Points concerning this buſineſs of *Tong* as you judg may be ſufficient for your *Vindication*.

L'Eſtrange. It is moſt Unwillingly that I enter upon This Subject; and for many Reaſons. *Firſt*, as my Caſe muſt neceſſarily take in ſome matters that fall under the Cognizance of his Majeſties moſt Honourable *Privy Councell*. *Secondly*, As I am no Friend to the Circumſtances of almoſt *All Vindications*; being ſtill accompany'd more or leſs with *Vanity*, and *Clamour*. *Thirdly*; It is an Argument of great *Weakneſs* and *Ill manners*, for me to impoſe upon the World; and to expect that the Sun ſhould ſtand ſtill in the Firmament, to attend my Little Story. And truly, in This Outrageous Liberty of the Preſs, I ſhould be no more mov'd at a *Perſonal Libell*, than at a *Pug* upon the *Thames*, for calling me the *Son of a Whore*; or at a *Privileg'd Fool*, upon the *Land*, for making as many Sorts of *Raſcals* of me as ever were created out of the Four and Twenty Letters. For *Courſe Language* is the *Dialect* of *Courſer Natures*. I never met with any man that was angry with a *Frogg* for *Croaking*: and every one knows that it is as *natural* for a *Puppy* to *Bark*, as to *Breath*. But yet under favour

favour, when This *Popular Venom* comes to Reſolve into a *Crime of State*; and that the *Honour* of a *Family*; the *Life*, *Freedome*,, and *Reputation* of a *Loyal Subject*, and an *Honeſt man*, comes to be the *Iſſue* of the *Queſtion*; I have no other Choyce before me, but either to *Sink* under the *Infamy* of a *Fool*, and a *Traytor*, (which is the Character that the Little *Scribbling Hirelings* of this Town have beſtow'd upon me) or elſe to Redeem my ſelf by a *Clear*, and *Open Defence*: Wherein I ſhall endeavour to govern my ſelf with a due Reverence both to *Authority*, and *Truth*.

Eph. Pray'e Speak, in the firſt place, to the matter of your *Examination*.

L'E. Upon *Wedneſday* the *6th* of this *Inſtant Oct.* I attended the Councill; where *Mr.* Oates, being preſent, referr'd himſelf, (as to any Charge againſt me) to *Young Tongs Affidavit*.

The *Affidavit* being read; I ſpake, with Leave of the Board, to thoſe Parts of it that ſeem'd to affect me; And, as I then promiſed, ſo I delivered a Juſt, and punctual Account, upon the whole matter in queſtion: which was to This following effect.

Mr. *Thomas Newcomb* of the *Savoy*, did, at my Inſtance, deſire Mr. *Choqueux* (his near Neighbour there,) that he would appoint me ſome time to diſcourſe with him at his own Houſe concerning ſeveral *Hiſtorical Paſſages* of the *Late War*, whereof (as I was enform'd) he had reſerv'd diverſe *Memorials*; He ſet the Time, and I went to him accordingly, telling him in Generall terms my buſineſſe: But company being There, and juſt ſetting down to a *Collation*, it was too

late to enter upon the Diſcourſe after Supper, and ſo we referr'd it to another time.

Upon my next Viſit, a maid directed me into a low Room, where there were two young men; (both Strangers to me:) Mr. *Choqueux* coming down Immediately, ſaluted me, and made *Young Tonge* (who, it ſeems, was *One* of them) and *my ſelf* known to each other. Mr. *Tonge* (ſaid I) *I have been ſometimes at your Fathers Lodgings in* White-Hall: *did I ever ſee You There?* No Sir, *ſays he*, I never ſaw you before in my Life; but I have often heard my Father ſpeak of You. *Yes* (ſays Mr. *Choqueux*) *for refuſing to Licenſe his* Royal Martyr; *which he took very Ill at your hands.* There were ſeveral dangerous Paſſages in it (*ſaid I*) that I durſt not meddle with. *Ay Sir*, ſays *Young Tonge*, *ſo there were:* And upon That, he took an Occaſion to tell me ſome *Generall Stories* of his *Father*, and Mr. *Oates*: That they had had *many Privacies* together; but without naming any Particulars of *buſineſſe*. And Then he told of one *Green* (a *Weaver*) that ſeeing his Father looking about him in the *Court of Requeſts*, (as I remember) askt him *what News?* Dr. *Tonge* replying, that he heard none: *Green* made anſwer that he would tell Him ſome; and that there would ſodainly be a *Popiſh Maſſacre*. *After which* (ſays young *Tonge*) *my* Father *made an Acquaintance with him; and not long after, follow'd the* Plot. Some other wild Diſcourſes he made; but all of them ſo Extravagant, and Incoherent, that I cut him off as fairly as with Civility I could, by *Piſhing* at all he had ſaid, and telling him, in plain terms, that *it ſignify'd juſt nothing*.

Upon ſhewing this Diſlike, *Tonge* whiſper'd to Mr. *Choqueux*, who told me preſently, that if I had any

Writing

Writing-work, Mr. *Tonge* would *Tranſcribe* any thing for me with all his heart. Mr. *Choqueux* alſo recommending *Tonge* to me, as one that had a great eſteem for me. I told him that I had no buſineſſe of That kinde, and that I ſhould be ready to Oblige Mr. *Tong*: And ſo we ſat together over a glaſſe of Wine, without one ſyllable more of buſineſſe, more then that I deſir'd Mr. *Choqueux* to remember me for what Notes he had of the late Warre; the which he ſaid he would, but that his Papers were moſt of them at *Paris*.

As I was going to take leave, M. *Tonge* deſir'd that he might wait upon me at my Houſe; and propounded ſuch or ſuch a time: So that I agreed at laſt to the time of his own chooſing: But ſo little ſatisfy'd was I with this kinde of Entertainment, that I ſlipt out of the way, and ſo he loſt his labour. But the next morning, Mr. *Choqueux* brought me a Letter from him, deſiring me that in regard he miſt of me laſt night, I would appoint him another time, for *he had ſomething to ſay to me*.

Upon reading of His Letter, (which I ſhew'd to the Bearer of it) Mr. *Choqueux* (ſaid I.) *he that has to do with theſe Fellows, Muſt be as wary as if he were upon the High-Rope: a ſlip is as much as a man's Neck's worth: If you do but miſplace One word, hee'l be your Ruine. But I'le write him an Anſwer however*; which in effect was This. *I'm ſorry that I miſt you laſt night, but if you have any thing to ſay to me, I ſhall be at home at 7. in the Evening*. Truly (*Sir*) ſays Mr. *Choqueux* I believe *young Tonge* to have no ſort of *Guile* in him; but however, he can do me no hurt, for I have nothing to do with him, but in relation to his Health.

About

About 7. in the *Evening*, came Mr. *Choqueux*, Mr. *Tonge*, and *two more*, (who are meer Strangers to me): Mr. *Choqueux* telling me, that Mr. *Tonge* had desir'd him to bring him to me, and that he had something to acquaint me with. *Sir* (said I) *This busineſſe has an Ill face: I will not meddle in any thing looks ſo like a Conſultation.* So the two ſtrangers departed, leaving the Other two behind; *Sr.* (ſays *Mr. Choqueux*) *Mr Tong has deliver'd ſome Enformations already: and he has an Enformation to offer to your ſelf, as a Juſtice of Peace.* Gentlemen (*Sayd I*) if it be an Enformation *ready Drawn*, and in *your own hand*, *Mr. Tong*; ſo as to need no alteration; if you pleaſe to Inſert a clauſe in't for *my Security*, wherein you ſhall declare, that it is *your own voluntary Act*, and without any *Argument*, or *Inducement*, from *me* to *move* you to't, let me ſee the Information, and if I find it a matter fit for me to meddle in, I'le Swear you to't; but otherwiſe I can do nothing in it. *Mr. Tong* making Anſwer, that he had nothing ready drawn; *Mr. Choqueux* went his way, and *Tong* Stayd I think about a Quarter of an hour after at moſt, after him; telling over the ſame Stuff again, that I was ſo Sick of at the *Savoy*. I was ſo far from Pumping him for matter to work upon, or making any Improvement, or Collections from what he ſayd, that I quitted the Table where he ſat, and walkt about the Room; which made him change his Diſcourſe, to talk of ſome little Fooliſh Things that I had written; which in good manners I gave him, and ſo he departed. After which time I never receiv'd either *Note*, or *Meſſage* from him.

Zek. But did not Dr. *Oates* charge you for concealing a *Conſpiracy*, contrary to your *Duty*, as a *Magiſtrate*? And did he not Appeal to the Board, whether or no you had rendred any account to their Lordſhips of That *Conſpiracy*?

L'Eſt. He did ſo: And my Anſwer Then was, that it would be a ſtrange boldneſſe, and Impertinence to trouble their Lordſhips with every ridiculous Story that I heard, and a more ridiculous then This I never met withall, under ſo Grave a Pretenſe.

I do now anſwer further, that as I was not at all *Inquiſitive* into the *Particulars*, ſo the *matter* in Generall of what I heard, was, in the very quality of it, ſo *Inſignificant* and *Trivial*; that bating the Charge, and Trouble of *Fees* and *Attendance*, I would have ſtood the ſhock of the Iſſue of ſuch a Charge, for a ſingle Half Crown, even admitting that every Article of it could have been prov'd againſt me. So that, as I ſaid upon my Examination, I do not account it worth my while to diſguiſe, or evade any one Circumſtance in This matter, being wholly Intent upon the diſcharge of my Conſcience, in this affair, with a reſpect to *Modeſty*, *Truth*, and *Duty*. Beſide, that on the other hand I have a natural abhorrence for the Office of a *Setter*, or a *Trepanner*: And it is the *Laſt Lawfull Service* in this world, that I would render even to my *Prince* and *Countrey*.

Zeki.

Zek. These are but Words ſtill: But ſince you have gone thus far of your own accord, pray'e go a little further for my ſake. Did you neither *Tamper* with *young Tonge*, *Originally*, nor *adviſe* him *afterward* to *diſclaim* his *Retractation* to his *Uncle*, of his *former Informations.*

L'Eſtrange. No: I do aver it, upon my Hopes of Heaven, that I never ſaw the Eyes of *Young Tonge* (to my knowledge) till after that diſclaiming of his Retractation. And ſo far was I from laying any ſtreſſe upon what I believe *Tonge* ſuggeſted, that I would have ſtood in Mr. *Oates* his Place for *Three half-pence*, if it could have been proved againſt Me.

Zek. You never had any thing to do neither with *Mrs. Cellers*, for the carrying on of This Contrivance againſt the *Doctors*, had ye?

L'Eſtr. Upon the word of a *Chriſtian*, I do not ſo much as know the Woman: and I do verily believe that I never ſaw her Face. Nor had I ever any thing to do with her, either directly or Indirectly in my whole Life: Nor did I hear ſo much as her *Name* mention'd upon my Examination.

Eph. Pray let *me* put you a Queſtion now. Did you never deliver *Tong* a *hundred Guyneys* by order from the Duke of *York*? Or do not you, either *know*, or *believe*, that he had *That*, or *ſome other Sum* given him, or ſome *Reward*, promis'd him, for the Carrying on of This Affayr? and by *Whom?*

L'Eſtr.

L'Eſtr. No, by all that is Sacred, I do neither *Know* nor *Believe* that any Sum of *Money*, or any Reward, was either *Given*, or *Promiſed* to *Tonge* by his *Royal Highneſs*, or his *Order*; nor do I know of any *Money given* him, or any *Reward Promiſed* him, in conſideration of his appearing as an *Evidence*, by any Perſon whatſoever. Neither did I ever touch a Penny of the Duke's Money in my Life, either for my *own*, or for the Uſe of any *other* Perſon. But as to any *Gratification* to him, or the *Hopes* of it, in caſe he could draw me into the Snare, I can ſay nothing to That. But by his Propoſing of *me* beforehand, for his *Aſſiſtant* (being, as then, wholly *unknown* to him) and by the Sequel of his *Addreſſes* and *Applications*, it doth manifeſtly appear, that the entrapping of *L'Eſtrange* was one part of his Deſign.

But you ſay nothing all this while of a *Conſpiracy* on the *other ſide*; and an endeavour to ſet up the whole Nation in Evidence againſt *me*. For what is it leſs, the diſperſing of ſo many hundreds of Papers every Week, all over the Kingdom, ſtuffed with the *baſeſt* and *falſeſt Scandals* againſt me imaginable; *belying* the very *Orders* and *Proceedings* of the *Council*; and *miſrepreſenting* Matters of *State*: And this is the Trade of a Pack of *Mercenary Scribblers* that are (probably) kept in *Pay* to a *Faction*.

Eph. You have the Wit, I perceive, to tell us nothing to your Diſadvantage: Pray'e were not you taken up for being a little too Malapert, when Dr. *Oates* laid you ſo open before the *Council*?

L'Eſtr.

L'Eſtr. Not one Jot I do aſſure ye Gentlemen: and I hope, I underſtand my Duty better than to deſerve it. True it is, that Mr. *Oates* charged me with *abuſing the Kings Witneſſes in my Writings.* And I did ſay indeed, *It were well if ſome of them did not abuſe themſelves more in their manners*, *for that Oates himſelf had within a few days call'd me at leaſt forty Rogues and Raſcals, in a* Coffee-Houſe, *in one quarter of an hour*; whereupon, (not to make the matter worſe than it was) Mr- *Oates* replyed, *ſo I have*; *and I will prove you to be a* Rogue *and a* Raſcal. And then he was at it that he would find Witneſſes: to which I only obſerv'd that they were yet to *find.*

And pray'e Note, That all this Heat was about my *Writings*; which he had at the ſame time declar'd in preciſe words that *he had never read.*

He threatn'd me indeed with a *Parliament*, but that is a Courſe of Speech he has got. If the Priſoners but ask a *New-comer* for his *Garniſh* or *Foy*, the Maſter of the Priſon ſhall be told of a *Parliament.* A Biſhop ſhall not Suſpend a Miniſter for refuſing to *officiate* according to the *Canon*, but he is preſently threatn'd with a *Parliament.* If the *Univerſity* ſhall not think fit to allow Mr. *Oates* his Degree; The *Lawn-Sleeves* are to be Ruffled *next Parliament.* I was walking a while ſince only croſs the *Outer-Court* at *White Hall* innocently about my buſineſs, and becauſe I did not *Cap* him, over the Square,

as

as the Boyes do *Fellows* in *Cambridge*; *Squire L'Eſtrange* (ſays he) *We ſhall have a* Parliament, twirling his Hat about, betwixt his Finger and his Thumb; with a *Look* and *Action* not to be expreſt.

What can be a greater Affront now to that *Illuſtrious Body*, than to entitle it to the *Protection of inſolent Reproaches* and *Wrongs*. As if *Parliaments* had nothing elſe to do, than to *countenance* the *Animoſities*, *gratifie* the *Paſſions*, and *wreake* the *Revenges* of *Private* and of *troubleſom men*.

To ſay that I have as great a *Veneration* for the Conſtitution of an *Engliſh Parliament*, as any man living, is only to ſay the ſame thing over again which I have very often ſaid heretofore. And I have made my words good by my *Practices* in the *Deference* and *Obedience* which I have ever paid to the *Authority* and *Dignity* of That *Auguſt Aſſembly*, whenſoever *Legally Indicted* and *Conven'd*. Did I ſuffer above three years *Impriſonment* in *Newgate* under a Sentence of Death, from the *Late Uſurpers (that dethron'd* and *depoſ'd his Majeſty)* for my *Loyalty* to my *Prince* and the *Government*? And ſhall I now be afraid of a *Parliament* that ſtands up for the King's *Preſervation* and *Supporte* Have I been *True* to the *Crown*, through all the Extremities of a *Barbarous Rebellion*, to be a *Traytor* now at laſt to a *Gracious* and a *Lawful Prince*? No, no; Gentlemen, to be *hang'd on both ſides* with the *Doctors* fair Leave, is a little with the

moſt. I have not behav'd my ſelf at a Rate to fear a *Parliament*, but rather to *wiſh* for't. As to all *Publick Matters*, I have made the *Law* my *Rule*, and I have made my *Duty* the *Meaſure* of my *Actions*; and he that keeps himſelf within *theſe Bounds*, needs no other Security againſt the *Juſtice* of a *Parliament*; eſpecially a Perſon that has upon all occaſions aſſerted the Rights of that Noble Aſſembly; Treating them with the ſtile of *Venerable Patriots* [*Caſe put Pag.* 22] even in the very caſe concerning his *Royal Highneſs*; and never receding from thoſe Terms of *Honour* and *Reſpect*.

Zek. You have made a long Diſcourſe here; juſt nothing to the purpoſe: for you are not Charg'd with *Abuſing* the *Parliament*, but for *Diſparaging the King's Witneſſes*.

L'Eſtr. As for the *Kings Witneſſes*, I have had no dealings with any of them, but with Mr. *Oates*, and none with *him* neither in any ſort to reflect upon his *Evidence*. He gives it up and down, with open-mouth, that I am a *Conſpirator*, and a *Papiſt*; and I declare on the other ſide, that there are not a couple of *Ranker Lyes* in *Hell*. *Rogue*, *Raſcal*, *Villain*, and other *Scurrillities* of the *ſame ſeaſoning*, are the *Lard* he makes uſe of in his ordinary Diſcourſes of *L'Eſtrange*. And under all theſe Indignities I muſt not dare to ſay that I am *None* of theſe fine things, for fear of diſcrediting Mr. *Oates* by the *Contradiction* But ſo long as he ſerves my betters with the ſame ſauce, there's the leſs hurt done. Where's the Liberty of the *Subject*, if men ſhall be Arraign'd for their Thoughts? Where's *common Equity*, if the Teſtimony of a Profligate, Little

Little Creature, that has ſworn *forward* and *backward*, and *backward* and *forward* again, in the ſame Cauſe already, ſhall come to weigh againſt almoſt *forty years ſervice* of the *Crown*, without ſo much as one *falſe ſtep*, which I affirm to be *Literally True*; and I defie the Devil himſelf, (let him but ſubſcribe *Satan* to his *Information*) to diſprove me in ſo much as a *Syllable*. What *Security* will there be for *Honour* or *Virtue*, when it ſhall become *dangerous* to be *honeſt*; And that there ſhall need no more than ſuch a wretch as *young Tong's* kiſſing of a *Book*, to work the Ruin of any man living? We have no *Curtius's* in This Age to ſpare; no *Devotes*, (that will run through fire and water to redeem their *Country* (more than the *Government* (I fear) has need of. This is a Caſe not to be imagin'd; and fitter for a *Romantick Viſion*, than a *Chriſtian Contemplation*. It might do well enough, for a Satyrical Piece of Painting, to draw the narrow *Way* beſet with *Gibbets*, *Shackles and Halters*; and to have the *broad One* ſtrewed with *Honours*, *Preferments*, and *Rewards*: for 'tis a *Phanſie* only for an *Embleme*, not a *Hiſtory*.

And yet God forbid but *Conſpiracies* and *Conſpirators* ſhould be throughly *ſifted* and *puniſht*; The *Suborners* of *falſe Evidence* made *exemplary*, and delivered up to the higheſt degree of *Ignominy* & *Scorn*; But then let the impartial Hand of *Juſtice* hold the *Scale*; and let *Authority*, in due courſe of *Law*, pronounce the *Sentence*. But for *Private Men* to obtrude themſelves upon the Province of the *Magiſtrate*: For Men who upon a Fatality of *Principle*, are (by a certain kind of *Incantation*) enſlav'd to ſuch or ſuch a Party; for

for theſe men (I ſay) to take advantages of the *Paſſions, Diſtempers, Wants and Weakneſſes* of Perſons in *Diſtreſs*: What may they not do with *Mean* and *Mercenary Souls* under ſuch a *Preſſure*? We are really come to that paſs, That the *Government* it ſelf as well as the Servants of it lies at the mercy of every *common Scribler*, and *Hedg-Printer*: and it is at their pleaſure, whether we ſhall be *Honeſt Men*; or *Raſcals, Traytors, Plotters, Suborners, Trepanners*; All as They pleaſe.

Eph. Pray do but mind now, how all this hangs together. You are cenſured for diſcrediting the *Kings Witneſſes*; and you diſcharge your ſelf with ſaying that they abuſe you: and there is not one word neither to clear your ſelf from being a *Papiſt*.

L'Eſtr. I have examined both my *Books* and my *Thoughts*. For the *Latter*; I am ſatisfied in my own Conſcience, and that's enough for me. As to the *Former*, let but any man ſhew me where I have ſo much as implyed any thing to be *Falſe* that was *true*; where I have ſo much as intimated the *Doubt*, or *Diſcredited* the *Evidence* of any thing that was *ſworn*: or where I have ſo much as adviſ'd a Caution in the point of believing but to the *advantage* of the *Kings Evidences* upon the *true* and *real Plot*: and I'le be his *Bond-Slave*. Now the Sum of all my *words* and *meaning*, is wrapt up in This: *Diſtinguiſh betwixt Street-Reports and Sworn-Evidences*; do not bring a Diſparagement upon the *Truth*, by being over-eaſie to believe *Fables*: for nothing more ſupports the *credit* of

of any Cauſe, than the caſting of all *Traſh* and *Trumpery* out of it.

To the *Scandal* of *Popery*; I am not ignorant how Liberal diverſe People are of their Cenſures in this Caſe; who by the Ties of Nature, Honour and Good Manners, ought to be more tender and careful of what they ſay: And ſome among the reſt, that ſtab me with this Poyſon'd Dagger in their very Arms; for I can ſcarce paſs them without an Embrace. If what I have ſaid and prov'd already upon this Subject, will not ſatisfie the World, nothing will: But however, it is only ſo much pains loſt, to attempt it once more.

In my *Reformed Catholique*, *pag.* 3. "[The "Author (ſay I) is no *Diſguiſed* or *Concealed* "*Papiſt*, but of the Communion of the Church "of *England*, Trained up in the ſtricteſt way "of it, and ſtanding firm to it againſt all ſorts "of *Provocation*, *Diſcouragement*, *Temptation* and "*Argument*; and without warping to the *Jeſu*-"*its*, either on the *Right Hand*, or on the "Left.

In my *Diſcovery upon Diſcovery*, Pag. 9. I expound the Paſſage above recited, in theſe Words,

"I had

'I had the Honour, in the Late Times, " (and being then an *Exile*) to paſs a matter of " Eight Months in the Houſe of the Cardinal " of *Heſſe*; where I was as kindly received " as if I had been at my own Father's: I " wanted neither Invitations nor Arguments " to carry me over to the Church of *Rome*; " beſide the private Temptation of a *Hopeleſs* " *Intereſt* (as to the King) and a *Broken Fortune.* " Now if I had been ſo eaſily diſpoſed to Truck " my *Religion* for *Money* (as the whole *Litter* " *of the Town-Scriblers* will have it) I do aſſure " you Dr. I could then have made my Mar- " ket.

And then in my Letter to Dr. *Oates*, *p.* 21. thus;

" Now to diſcharge my Soul to you, *Dr.* " as in *Confeſſion*; I am (by my Hopes of Hea- " ven) a True Son of the Church of *Eng-* " *land.*

Some there are, that will have me a Papiſt of *Fifteen Years Standing*; others, only of *Six Months*; But a *Papiſt* I am to be, in deſpight of my Hearts-Blood. The *Coffee Houſe-Doctors* have, in fine, pronounc'd me a *Papiſt*; but *where*, and *how often*, and *how many Witneſſes* to prove me at *Maſs*, they are not

not yet agreed upon. The Scene is ſaid to be laid in *Somerſet-Houſe*, *Wyld-Houſe*, and three or four other obſcure Places. The *High-Fliers* will not abate a ſingle *Ave-Mary* of *Forty Maſſes*; but the more *Moderate* reckon upon *Nine*, preciſe; within a *Dominus Tecum*, which looks like Five Pound wanting a Penny, in a *Tavern-Bill*. With the ſame Conſcience they might have made it Even Money as well, if they had ſo pleas'd. There's ſome body has made mention of *Prance*, as the Perſon to produce the Witneſſes; but I'le not believe it. I could ſilence all theſe Calumnies, by telling you, that I have ſatisfi'd the Law in Receiving of the *Sacrament*, and taking the *Teſts*; but I'le go further with you.

By my Hopes of a Future State, I am in my Heart and Judgment, a True Son of the Church of *England*, according to the Nine and Thirty Articles: And if I was ever preſent at the Celebration of any Maſs ſince His Majeſties Return; or if (to the beſt Recollection I can make of Things paſt) I have ever ſo much as ſet my Foot into a *Romiſh Chappel*, ſince HisMajeſties Return, I wiſh I may never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Zek. This is a bold Puſh; but all this Swearing and Staring will not bring you off yet for your *Writings*.

L'Eſtr. As to my *Writings*, they are at this Inſtant under the *Anatomy*; and I know moſt of the very Perſons that are Commiſſioned to Read upon the Diſſection. I look upon my ſelf to be under the Protection of the Law; and I do poſitively ſay, that without a moſt *Unnatural Violence*, both upon the *Scope* and *Wording* of them, I am ſecure.

POST-SCRIPT.

MY Attendance upon his Majeſty in Council, about this Buſineſs of *Tong*, ſince the Publiſhing of theſe Papers, has Created new Matter for a *Poſtſcript*; which I am bound, in common prudence to communicate to the world; for the obviating of thoſe malicious Calumnies which are daily promoted againſt me by the skill and induſtry of a Faction; to which I have render'd my ſelf odious, by aſſerting the Rites and Intereſts, both of Church and State, according to my Conſcience and Duty.

Upon a ſtrict Examination of this *Sham-Plot* of *Tongs*, and a full hearing of all Parties; I preſent-

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ed my Defence, as I have already ſet it forth, and it was admitted, without any ſort of contradiction. But as I had occaſion to ſay upon the place; *If one Nail will not drive, another muſt*. The Charge of the *Sham-Plot* falling to the Ground; (without one word of Mrs. *Cellier*, as to any concern of mine) Mr. *Oates* was pleaſed to repreſent me as a Perſon *Popiſhly-affected*; and he produced Mr. *Prance*, who declared upon *Oath*, that he had ſeen me three or four ſeveral times at *Maſſe*, at *Somerſet Houſe*, about *two years ſince*; and that I did there as other People did; but that he could not ſpeak any more as to my being a *Papiſt*, or that he ever ſaw me *receive*; neither could he name any body elſe that ſaw me there; and he added to this, that he had known me about the Town for ſeveral years.

Now to *this Information*, I anſwer, firſt, That if I had been there, it would not prove me to be a *Papiſt*; for Thouſands of People reſort thither, many times upon *Curioſitie*, without any reſpect to *Religion*. Secondly, that having taken the Oaths and Teſts required by the Law, I am *Rectus in Curia*: ſo that this Teſtimony cannot operate upon me for that reaſon neither; that is to ſay, any further than as to a Scandal.

And yet under theſe ſafe and legal Circumſtances, without any avail to me, (more than purging my ſelf from the Reproache) I do here *deliberately* and *ſolemnly* make this further *Declaration* to the whole world.

As I do believe there is a God; and that there is a *Heaven and a Hell*, (with Reverence to the *Divine Majeſty*, and to *Truth*) may I be *ſav'd*, or *damn'd*, as I ſpeak *true* or *falſe*, in this matter; and without any *reſerve* or *colluſion* whatſoever: and I deliver this upon cold

and

and considerate thoughts, having before me the Prospect of the most *dreadful Vengeance* to fall upon me, if I tell a lye, that ever befell any Mortal.

☞ I never was present at *Mass* in any place whatsoever, since his Majesties Return; nor to the best of my memory, have been under the Roof of a *Romish Chappel*, since that time.

After this, Mr *Oates* exhibited an Information against me for conveying away *Bulls* and *Popish Books* that had been seiz'd and lock'd up: whereupon the Messenger of the Press discharg'd himself upon *Oath*, that the Name of *L'Estrange* was not so much as mentioned in the case. Mr. *Oates* Expounding himself afterwards, that what he spake, was only upon Information.

The next Blow at me will be (as I am inform'd) for saying at *Will's Coffee House*, that there is no Plot: which is a thing that I do averr, by all that I have said before, was never spoken by me, either there, or any where else.

In the last place, I am to be question'd for my Books, and that concludes the Story.

Whosoever duly considers the Quality of my Case, and the necessity of encountring so many *spiteful flams*, as are already disperst'd, even since *yesterday*, with a *fair* and a *modest Narration* of the matter of *Fact*, will easily excuse this *Appendix*.

Octob. 14. 1680.

THE END

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